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CONTACT: GLENN BRIERE
(617) 727-6200, EXT. 123

DeNUCCI HONORED WITH PAUL HARRIS AWARD
BY NEWTON ROTARY CLUB

State Auditor Joe DeNucci of Newton was honored by the Newton Rotary Club with the Paul Harris Award for exemplifying the Rotary International motto of “service above self.”

Named for the founder of the Rotary Club, the award is a scholarship presented to Rotary International to help those in need throughout the world. DeNucci was presented with the award by Rotary Club President Scott Lewis at a luncheon on June 3 at Brae Burn Country Club.

Present and former public officials from Newton were in attendance to offer testimonial remarks for Auditor DeNucci, including Newton Board of Alderman President Lisle Baker, who said, “It’s the individual concern about people and what happens about them that is the hallmark of Joe DeNucci.”

State Rep. Ruth Balser spoke of DeNucci’s “special connection to Newton” and his willingness to help with major issues on Beacon Hill of importance to the city. Former Mayor Tom Concannon, a friend for more than 50 years, quoted Shakespeare: “To see the man, look to the boy. He was always a leader then as he’s a leader now.”

David Sellers, Executive Director of the John Barry Newton Boys and Girls Club, described DeNucci as a role model for more than 40 years, going back to his years as a professional boxer and later as a state representative from Newton. “He would explain to us about the real people he was most interested in serving: the elderly, the disabled, the mentally ill,” said Sellers. “He wanted to make sure the rights of those people were protected and they were given the rights and privileges they deserved.”

In his remarks, DeNucci said the Rotary Club stands for service and helping people in need. “I identify very strongly with that,” said DeNucci. “In a world that becomes more and more about what’s in it for me, the Rotary continues to do good work by staying true to its motto, ‘service above self.’”

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DeNucci also said the award was special to him because last year's Paul Harris award was presented posthumously to his lifelong friend, Dom Bianchi.

"Trying to help people and doing the right thing, those are the two things that have driven me in public service," said DeNucci. "There is no other work I would want to do that would give me the satisfaction I get from helping people who need government."

DeNucci represented Newton and Waltham in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987, the last six years as House Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs. He has served as State Auditor since 1987.